



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

El Malpais
National Monument

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El Malpais and El Morro News Release

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For Immediate Release

Fire Management Officer 505- 285- 4641 x14

El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments Announce Fire Restrictions

Due to extreme fire conditions that prevail in northwestern New Mexico, the National Park Service joins other local agencies, including the Cibola National Forest, in stepping up fire restrictions. Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins announced today that effective Friday, May 12 fire restrictions will be in effect within El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments.

To reduce the potential for human caused wildfires, smoking is restricted to the inside of vehicles or a developed parking area which is paved, barren or cleared of all flammable material. Cigarette butts must be disposed of in ash trays. Smoking is prohibited on all monument trails. No wood fires are allowed anywhere in the monuments. Charcoal fires are allowed only in the developed campground at El Morro National Monument. Gas stoves are allowed in developed picnic areas within both monuments as well as in the El Malpais National Monument backcountry. Backcountry visitors are asked to use caution when parking vehicles where hot exhaust pipes might ignite grass. "Visitors are reminded that fireworks are prohibited at all times on all federal public lands" states Superintendent Collins.

"We appreciate your cooperation in following these restrictions. It would only take a spark to ignite monument woodlands" warns Fire Management Officer Andy Bundshuh. For further information on restrictions, rules and regulations for El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments please contact our headquarters at 505- 285- 4641. For information on Forest Service fire restrictions and closures, contact the Mt. Taylor Ranger District at 505- 287- 8833.

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